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September 6, 2007

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The Arizona State Board of Education has initiated a review of current high school graduation requirements. As part of its process, the Board is soliciting public comment from key stakeholders, including the general public. The Board has undertaken this review of requirements recognizing that it is only the first of several steps in preparing our high school graduates for the 21st century. Certainly, there are infrastructure, including availability of qualified teachers, curricula, and student support issues that must also be addressed to ensure that students, school districts and charter schools can successfully meet increased expectations. The State Board recognizes that an increase in high school graduation requirements will have impact throughout the K-12 system.

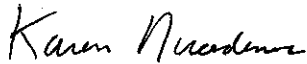
Attached you will find a summary of the State Board's work to date. We are requesting that you read and consider the Board's initial proposal regarding how graduation requirements may be increased over the course of the next several years. In addition, to assist the Board in its deliberations, we are soliciting input in the following areas:

- Framing requirements as credits versus years, as in 4 credits of math versus 4 years of math;
- Using language that requires a student to earn a math credit during his/her senior year;
- Defining a student's ability to earn high school credit while still enrolled in middle school; and
- Adding more specificity to defining science credits.

There are several ways in which you may submit your comments to the State Board of Education. The attached information includes where to send written comments regarding the proposal. You may also choose to address the Board during one of its regularly scheduled or special study sessions.

Information, including minutes of past meetings of the State Board may be found on the State Board of Education's website at:
<http://www.ade.az.gov/stateboard/> .

Sincerely,



Karen A. Nicodemus
President, Arizona State Board of Education



Tom Horne
Superintendent of Public Instruction



Vince A. Yanez
Executive Director, Arizona State Board of Education